

Greensboro's First Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenways Plan

By Mike Simpson, City Lakes, Trails & Greenways Director

In the world of parks & recreation, the term "master plan" is nothing new. Almost everywhere P&R professionals strive to maximize the recreation and leisure opportunities for their citizens through the aid of a master plan. Master planning has spawned an industry of devoted professionals with backgrounds as landscape architects and engineers, who thrive by assisting P&R staff to provide better facilities and more opportunities through planning.

According to Chuck Flink, founder of Greenways Inc., Greensboro is unique because we have embarked on the "most ambitious plan in North Carolina." Flink was referring to the *Greensboro Urban Area Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenways Master Plan*. This master plan is the first time in state history that a municipality has attempted to combine bicycle, pedestrian and trail elements into one planning effort.

Initially, the plan started out as a trails and greenways master plan, made possible by a generous grant opportunity provided by the Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation. The plan was to be administered through Action Greensboro with assistance and implementation from our City Trails & Greenways Section.

Early in the master planning process, the Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT), as the lead organization for bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel, recognized the benefits that could be realized by partnering with P&R on



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www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/parks/facilities/trails

a comprehensive master plan. It will address all elements of bicycle, pedestrian and trail-related planning for Greensboro and the surrounding Metropolitan Planning Organization area for the next 25 years.

Two prestigious consulting firms, Greenways, Inc. and Toole Design Group were chosen to address the area needs. Greenways Inc. has worked with international clients and in more than 30 states, providing expertise in trails and greenways to over 100 communities.

The goal of the aggressive plan is to develop a blueprint that can be used by P&R and GDOT officials to proactively plan for issues related to

health and wellness, alternate transportation and recreation. Some of the by-products of the master plan will be to improve non-motorized connectivity and safety, promote economic development, and enhance the environment.

The first priority of the consultant was to assess existing conditions and determine needs and opportunities of the study area. To facilitate this process, the consultants examined facilities such as trails, greenways, bike routes and sidewalks, existing plans, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, and gathered input from public meetings and citizen surveys. A needs analysis was

formulated, using every possible piece of information.

The needs analysis supported the master plan, which recommends an additional 850 miles to the existing bicycle network, 362 miles of pedestrian access, and adds 400 miles of trails and greenways to the current system. The master plan also has recommendations for programming in education, encouragement and enforcement.

The plan has an "Operations and Management" component with strategies for a well-maintained system and the implementation of recommendations that define the key elements and priorities. Also outlined in the plan are existing opportunities that will direct staff to alternate funding sources.

It will take years of perseverance and a great deal of funding to accomplish these master plan recommendations. "Based on the framework of the *Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenways Master Plan*, Greensboro will be the model community," stated Flink.

The plan has been an 18-month process, highlighted by two citizen surveys, more than 30 public meetings, numerous field trips and hours of text deliberation. With the completion of the master plan, many citizens and staff believe the first step toward a model community of bicycle, pedestrian and trail-based opportunities has been accomplished!

For more information, please give our City Trails & Greenways office a call at **336-373-3812**.

"The mission of the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department is to provide diverse year-round leisure opportunities through the preservation of open space, park settings, recreational facilities and programs for the citizens of Greensboro. The benefits of leisure services are especially designed to meet the physical, mental, cultural, and social needs of our residents and visitors to our community, while enhancing the overall quality of life in Greensboro."

www.greensboro-nc.gov/leisure



By Mary Alice Kurr-Murphy

"Hey, you know who I was thinking about the other day? That guy who used to work over in... I think it was one of the City Lakes, or maybe in one of our gardens. You remember, he was really funny and everybody liked him. It seems like he was around forever and then he retired, or maybe he just left for another job. I've always wondered what happened to him, where he is now, and how he's doing."

"Then, there was that gal who worked in one of our centers. I think she was an Assistant Center Supervisor and taught some classes. She always seemed to know just the right way to do everything. You could always count on her for lots of help. I wonder where she went when she retired..."

Since we've had so many terrific people working in Parks & Recreation over the years, the PNN Editorial Board has decided to devote this column to information and news about our former colleagues, who we've never been able to forget. We have already come up with a good list of former employees, who we plan to profile in future issues of PNN.

If you're wondering about someone you used to work with, or would like to have information on a person you think the rest of us would enjoy knowing about, please call **Mary Alice Kurr-Murphy** in City Arts at **373-2731!**



MUSEP continues to entertain Thousands with the wonderful Sound of Music!

This month, people of all ages continue to flock to our parks and community venues to enjoy some of the finest entertainment in the Piedmont, all *free* of charge!

Thanks to the support of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and FOX8 WGHP TV, *Music for a Sunday Evening in the Park* (MUSEP) provides another season of great music to the ears of our citizens.

You and your family are invited to pack a picnic and join the grand MUSEP tradition...

Please note:

Our final MUSEP concert of the season with the Allison King Band, originally scheduled for Sunday, October 15th at Center City Park, is cancelled, since the park opening has been postponed.



Above, *Music for a Sunday Evening in the Park* draws thousands of citizens out to enjoy a leisurely picnic and some of the Piedmont's most popular entertainment, all free of charge!

September Employee of the Month

Congratulations goes out to **Chanel Webster**, part-time Program Assistant at Glenwood Recreation Center, as our September Employee of the Month!

Nominated by **Paula Boykin**, Glenwood Center Supervisor, Chanel was selected for her outstanding contributions to the citizens. "Chanel's knowledge of the center operations is invaluable in my absence," says Paula. "She provides excellent customer service, maintains accurate office records and produces attractive window displays with her talented artwork. Chanel rarely misses work and maintains a professional attitude toward her job duties, which enhances quality teamwork," Paula adds.

When asked what she likes best about her job at Glenwood,

Chanel Webster



Chanel says, "I enjoy working with the community most of all, and seeing the children take something positive out of their experience at Glenwood Center."

Congratulations, Chanel!



For P&R Employee of the Month nomination forms, please call the Marketing Section at **373-2947**.

Delta H Fencers host Fall Fencing Fest at Glenwood Center

On September 30, the Delta H Fencers will host the 20th Annual Fall Fencing Fest at Glenwood Center. This event was originally held as a great way to allow experienced yet former fencers to get back into the game.

Over the years, the event has taken on a life of it's own. The tournament format allows both experienced and novice men and women, ages 10-70, to compete in an all-day event. While the first tournament had fewer than 15 participants, in recent years the Delta H Fencers have seen anywhere from 60 to 98 fencers coming to compete from all over



the state, making this meet one of the largest in the state! If you would like to learn how to fence, fall classes are starting soon at Glenwood Center.

For more information, give **Paula Boykin**, Glenwood Center Supervisor, a call at **373-2929**.

Did You Know? P&R People, Places & Programs

Our **Athletics** section proudly announces the dedication of the fields at Jaycee Park in honor of three longtime youth football coaches; **Brantley Edwards**, **Henry Bondurant** and **Jerry Stanley**. The ceremony honoring their contributions to the youth of our community will be held on **Sunday, September 10th, 2 pm**, at Lewis Recreation Center, 3110 Forest Lawn Drive. P&R staff and the general public are cordially invited to attend! For more information, please contact **Tom Shalley**, Assistant Athletics Director, at **373-2174**.



Neil Thompson, City Lakes Activity Specialist, recently completed his NC Environmental Education Certification. This certification includes over 300

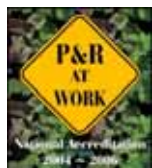
hours of classes and "hands-on" experiences. The certificate is issued by the NC Department of Environmental Resources.

Congratulations, Neil!



Last month, the **Greensboro Youth Council** was awarded \$750 from the Wal-Mart "Good Works" program for this year's **Ghoulash!** Halloween event. On August 13th, **Jenny Caviness** and **Courtney Hemphill** accepted the check at the VIP Open House, during the Wal-Mart grand opening on the site of the former Carolina Circle Mall.

P&R has also received a 2006 NFL/NRPA Local Agency Grant. **Lewis Center** and **Trotter Center** will use the \$2,500 award for their fall football programs.



The Final Step ...Seattle! National Accreditation Update

By Bernadette White

It's been a long, hot summer of anticipation for our National Accreditation team. After weeks of waiting, the "good news" finally arrived on August 15th.

The CAPRA Visitation Team Report stated that of the 155 standards our Department was in full compliance on 148 of them, according to the review of the Visitation Team members. The CAPRA Commissioners have provided us an opportunity to respond to any concerns as noted in the report. After reviewing the visitor's notes on the standards that did not pass, none of which were required ("blue" standards), the Accreditation teams are prepared to meet the final

challenge. Our response will be submitted within 30 days of the report. We will meet with the Commission on October 11th in Seattle, WA for the final review.

Our expectations are high that we will satisfy the standards that did not pass, once our follow-up information and comments are included in the report. The final line of the Visitation Team's report states, "The team also notes the outstanding staff and programs that were encountered in our field visits – high quality services were being delivered by well-trained and motivated staff."

We've always known that our employees offer the very best!

Way to go, team!



P&R Staff News

In Sympathy

Darius Oliver,

on the death of his sister-in-law

Tom Shalley,

on the death of his father-in-law



Greensboro Merchants Association WORKPLACE WORKSHOP

*"Developing a Comic Vision"
Topic: Stress Relief*

Mark your calendar!

Thursday, October 19th
Embassy Suites, 8 am-10:30 am
Free to all City Employees!
Reservations: 378-6350

PNN

Park News Network Publication Credits

PNN, The Park News Network, is a monthly employee publication of the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Marketing Section. We welcome submissions from all of our P&R employees. The deadline for the publication is the 1st of the month.

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The BACKPAGE

The PNN Editorial Board encourages the “cards and letters” to keep on coming. Send us your favorite employee stories, humorous articles, candid photos, or creative writing to be included in future issues of PNN. Send your contributions to the P&R Marketing Section today!

End of Summer Bash!

On Wednesday, August 2, our ten recreation centers came together at Hester Park for their annual “End of Summer Bash.” There were more than 600 kids in attendance for this great event! Activities included moonwalks, adventure slides, disc golf, rock climbing slide, pedestal joust and the bungee run. Although the temperatures were high, staff provided plenty of water, misting tents and lots of sno-cones to keep the kids cool and refueled. Food for the event was provided by the Coca-Cola Community Connections, complete with hotdogs, chips and soft drinks. Our Summer Day Camp kids really enjoyed themselves, ending the summer vacation with a big “BANG!”

A special “thanks!” goes to all of our Summer Day Camp staff for a job well done!

